

and operator of Moore Farms in Arkansas City, he produces rice and soybeans, with an additional focus on wildlife management. He is also a member of the Arkansas House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development.

As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer's daughter from Helena, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our Arkansas agriculture community. Agriculture is the backbone of Arkansas's economy, creating more than 270,000 jobs in the state and providing \$9.1 billion in wages and salaries.

Mr. President, I commend Representative Moore and all members of the Arkansas Legislature for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the people of our great State. I commend their efforts, and I remain dedicated to working with them to help keep Arkansas strong.●

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY LALLY MUNCY

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I commend fellow Arkansan Peggy Lally Muncy for raising \$25,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of Central Arkansas.

Peggy recently completed a 7-week, 3,415-mile cross-country bicycle tour from Los Angeles to Boston. Through per-mile monetary pledges made by friends and family, Peggy was able to double her initial goal of raising \$10,000 for the club.

A North Little Rock resident, Peggy represents the best of our Arkansas values of service, compassion, and commitment. Her efforts have helped countless children and youth in central Arkansas take part in activities that promote social, cultural, educational, recreational and physical development.

Volunteer efforts like Peggy's can literally change lives. I salute Peggy and all Arkansans who give back to their communities each and every day. Together, we can make a real difference for the people of our State.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES O. POWELL

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the life and career of respected Arkansas journalist James O. Powell, who served as the long-time editorial page editor and columnist for the Arkansas Gazette newspaper. James passed away on March 10 at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Ruth Powell, and son Lee Powell of Washington, DC, who I have worked with in his role as the executive director of the Mississippi Delta Grassroots Caucus.

During his 30-year tenure at the Gazette, James fought to preserve the journalistic principles of integrity and honesty. Among his memorable writings, James penned a series of editorials during the 1950s and 60s in sup-

port of the civil rights movement and opposing school segregation. He chronicled Arkansas politics with clarity and thoughtfulness, including extensive coverage of Arkansas Governors Winthrop Rockefeller, Dale Bumpers, and Bill Clinton.

After retiring from the Gazette in 1987, James continued to write a syndicated column published in many Arkansas papers until 2000. Through his reporting, Arkansans learned the news of the day, along with insight and analysis, to help them make informed decisions about local, state, and national events.

Mr. President, I honor the life and legacy of James O. Powell for his dedication to Arkansas and his commitment to excellence in journalism. His work helped educate and inspire a generation of Arkansans.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE MARY ANN GUNN

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Judge Mary Ann Gunn for her personal commitment and innovative approach to public service in northwest Arkansas. Judge Gunn, who serves on the Washington County Circuit Court, received the 2009 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award.

The award, presented on behalf of the Director of the FBI, was established in 1990 to recognize individuals and organizations for their efforts in combating terrorism, drugs, and violence in America. In addition to her duties as a circuit judge, Judge Gunn voluntarily serves as a judge for the Washington and Madison County Drug Court, in Arkansas. Since 2000, the drug court has accepted first-time, nonviolent drug offenders into a nine month program of intensive counseling and close supervision. When offenders successfully complete the program, their criminal records are cleared of the drug offense.

Judge Gunn's courtroom is one of the most successful in the nation. Her drug court is regularly televised in Washington and Madison Counties, and is an excellent example of how the community, the courts, and law enforcement work together to reduce crime. In addition, she has held drug court sessions in school gymnasiums to show students just where drug use can lead. According to the FBI, Judge Gunn manages "one of the most effective public services available in Northwest Arkansas."

We congratulate Judge Mary Ann Gunn on her personal accomplishment, and we thank her for her commitment to reducing crime and protecting citizens of Arkansas.●

RECOGNIZING FUEL

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, restaurants in my home State recently celebrated the second annual Maine Restaurant Week from March 1 through 10. This creative event is designed to offer Mainers and visitors alike the opportunity to spend an

evening out to try a new restaurant at an affordable fixed price. After last year's success, where nearly 98 percent of attendees said the event met or exceeded their expectations, over 100 restaurants participated in this year's celebration. I rise today to recognize one restaurant that took part in Restaurant Week, Fuel, that has helped to lead a renaissance in downtown Lewiston.

In 2005, Eric Agren and his wife Carrie purchased the old Lyceum Hall in downtown Lewiston with the purpose of renovating the 135-year-old theater, which is listed on the National Historic Register. The goal was to transform the theater, vacant for over 50 years, into a cozy, welcoming space while maintaining the historical nature of the building. Mr. Agren, who is originally from the Lewiston-Auburn area, spent several years in Chicago working for a kitchen design company, which piqued his interest in the culinary arts, before returning home to pursue his longtime dream of opening a restaurant. The couple also turned the upstairs of the building into a 5,000-square-foot apartment. Because of the Agrens' dedicated efforts, Fuel received historic preservation awards from the State of Maine and the city of Lewiston, both in 2007.

Fuel's menu features French country cuisine with a close-to-home twist. Starting with French classics like escargot, fondue, and French onion soup, the menu includes an eclectic mix of dishes from braised short ribs and steak frites to roasted chicken and homemade macaroni and cheese. The Agrens describe Fuel's interior décor as "urban cozy," with French vintage art, leather chairs in the bar, and butcher paper topping the tables. The restaurant received a 2008 Editor's Choice Award from Yankee Magazine, as well as Wine Spectator magazine's Award of Excellence for its exceptional wine list of over 100 selections. Fuel has also been the recipient of the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce's President's Award and has received recognition as Downeast Magazine's Best Dining in Lewiston.

Since the opening of Fuel, several other restaurants have opened across Lewiston, resulting in a burgeoning revival of the city's downtown. Nearly a dozen new restaurants have entered the Lewiston dining scene in recent years, leading to increased traffic and a more vibrant atmosphere downtown, as well as creating new jobs. Indeed, to continue this trend, the Agrens soon plan to open another restaurant just down Lisbon Street from Fuel called Marché. In the process of refurbishing the building, the couple also created a two-bedroom, 2,000-square-foot apartment upstairs from the restaurant. As Mr. Agren recently explained, he hopes these efforts bring new people to the downtown area, and expects "to see a small core of affiliated businesses sprout up—such as dry cleaners and specialty markets—that would cater to a growing downtown population."